

DRAFT

Independent Living Advisory Council (ILAC)

BlindSight Delaware

2915 Newport Gap Pike

Wilmington, DE 19808

Meeting Minutes, June 11, 2019

Present Attendees: Suzanne Howell, council member; Kathryn Bottner, council member; Mary Marsh, guest; Deborah Bradl, Division for the Visually Impaired (DVI); Wayne Marsh, Council Chairperson; Patti Addison, Vice Chair; Ken Rolph, council member; Sandi Miller, Division for the Visually Impaired; Jill Morrison, Division for the Visually Impaired; August Hazuer, council member; Lynn Schneider, council member; Debra Mills-Joe, Division for the Visually Impaired; and Loretta Harper-Brown, BlindSight Delaware

Attendees by phone: Melodye May, Division for the Visually Impaired

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Wayne Marsh at 11:30 AM.

Minutes:

Patti Addison made a motion to approve the last two meetings' minutes. Kathryn Bottner seconded the motion. Motion carried, minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Blind Entrepreneurs Program: On Monday, June 3, 2019, members of the Blind Vendors Committee, Canteen Vending Services and staff from DVI were recognized by Lieutenant Governor Hall-Long at the Lieutenant Governor's Healthy Challenge Leadership Awards Ceremony held at Dover Downs.

During this reporting period, the Healthy Vending Comparative Analysis Summary for April 2018 versus April 2019 was completed.

Independent Living Services (ILS): On May 24, 2019, DVI's ILS Unit sponsored a workshop titled "All About Meal Delivery Services," which was attended by nine participants who explored the pros and cons of subscribing to a prepare-at-home meal kit delivery service. It was determined that the kits are not accessible to individuals who are blind, packaging and recipes are in small print and are somewhat expensive.

ILS staff facilitated a discussion on "A Matter of Balance" (MOB). MOB is a fall prevention program available to members of the Association for Education and

Rehabilitation of the Visually Impaired Aging division. The MOB program is an 8-week program that meets twice a week.

Outreach: May 8, 2019, Senator Lawson presented SCR40, which recognized May as Healthy Vision Month. DVI provided brief remarks to the Senate prior to the resolution's passage.

In recognition of Healthy Vision Month, for the second year DVI co-hosted Healthy Vision Family Night with the Delaware Children's Museum on May 15, 2019 for the second year. Attracting over twenty vendors, the event featured vision screenings for children in the Vision to Learn mobile clinic, vision screenings for adults by the Lions Club, and audiology screenings by the University of Delaware. The attendance was increased by over 100 people from 2018.

The Division for the Visually Impaired hosted a business engagement event at the New Castle Chamber of Commerce on May 15, 2019. The focus was on informing the business community about DVI services, hosting an open space for businesses to network, and recognizing two partners, New Castle County Chamber of Commerce and the City of Wilmington's Parks and Recreation Youth Summer Employment.

May 17, 2019: DVI attended the Vision to Learn Celebration of the 200,000th pair of glasses provided since the start of the program.

June 20, 2019: There will be a Health Fair at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover, 9 am-1 pm.

Over the next year, all departments will be working on initiatives based on Executive Order 24, ensuring Delaware is a trauma-informed state.

INDEPENDENT LIVING REPORT:

Statistics:

IL: currently 78 consumers; this time last year, 82 consumers.

Activities this Quarter:

55+ Expo

Stonegates Health Fair

Newark Senior Center Health Fair

Cape Henlopen Senior Center Health Fair

Absalom Jones Health Fair

Spring Break week with VR transition students

Workshops this Quarter:

Amazon Echo Workshop

All about Meal Delivery Services

Upcoming Activities:

Modern Maturity Health Fair: June 20, 2019

Summer Academy: July 8 – July 19, 2019, location to be announced

Workshop Paratransit updates: July 24, 2019, 10 am – 12 pm, Biggs Building, New Castle

Independent Resources Sensitivity Training – August 21, 2019, location to be announced

News from the last quarter:

Melodye May attended a meeting of the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) on June 5, 2019. One of the issues discussed was the Department of Labor's (DOL) Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) stating that they no longer wish to be the Designated State Entity (DSE) that manages the State's Federal Independent Living Part B grant.

Jocelyn Langrehr, Deputy Director of DOL's DVR, stated that the Division plans to participate in hiring a part-time worker to coordinate and manage the program. The council requested the presence of both DVR and DVI Division Directors to attend the next Council meeting.

BlindSight:

BlindSight hosted guest speakers from New Castle County government discussing adaptive recreation programs. New Castle County is now offering programs that are adapted for blind and visually impaired individuals. The listing of activities was posted in the BlindSight newsletter.

Delaware Association for Blind Athletes (DABA):

The event on May 18, 2019 was a very successful event. DABA purchased new beep ball equipment and new tandem bikes thanks to a grant from New Castle County.

Old Business: There was no old business to be discussed.

New Business:

ILS Workshop Analysis – 2018

The Independent Living Team facilitated eight out of twelve planned workshops last year. Four workshops were cancelled due to the lack of attendance. The first three were held by teleconference with several clients attending in person as well. They were as follows:

January: Deaf/Blind Resources – three in person, several on the telephone.

February: NFB Newsletter – six in person, several on the telephone.

March: Uber and Lyft – eight in person, several on the telephone. Kathryn Bottner conducted these sessions.

May: Paratransit Updates – Facilitated by DART employees and offered at Biggs and over the telephone. Nine people attended in person and several participated by telephone.

June: Emergency Preparedness – Facilitated by New Castle County Office of Public Safety and DEMA. Seven ILS clients attended as well as peer support clients from peer support.

July: Caregiver Resources -This session was cancelled due to lack of participation for the second year in a row.

August: Healthy Lifestyles – This session was facilitated by practitioners, including a yoga instructor, a healthy homes specialist, and a nutrition educator.

September: What's New in Technology -This session was facilitated by Matt Tseronis. Ten individuals participated in this workshop. It was another popular topic and well attended.

October: Diabetes Self-Management- Cancelled due to the lack of participation.

November: Accessible Mainstream Electronics - This session was attended by five consumers. It focused on the Kindle Fire and the Amazon Echo.

December: Holiday Crafts- Debra Mills-Joe facilitated this session and only one participant attended.

Analysis:

Workshops offered at the beginning of the year were attended the most. Workshops held at the end of the year are more likely to be cancelled.

This year, workshops are being offered every other month to month to hopefully increase attendance and avoid “workshop burnout” by the participants.

Members suggested topics such as personal safety and sleep disorders.

Adjournment:

Patti Addison made motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathryn Bottner seconded the motion. Motion carrier. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ana Llach, Division for the Visually Impaired, Administrative Specialist I